

Thus ended my abridged observations of November 1963.

In my remarks during the 1976 dedication ceremonies in this chamber, I returned to the themes of 1963. I stated my belief that, in its fundamentals, the Senate of modern times may not have changed essentially from the Senate of Clay, Webster, and Calhoun.

What moved Senators yesterday still moves Senators today. We have the individual and collective strength of our predecessors and, I might add, their weaknesses. We are not all ten feet tall, nor were they. Senators act within the circumstances of their fears no less than their courage, their foibles as well as their strengths. Our concerns and our efforts in the Senate, like our predecessors and successors, arise from our goals of advancing the welfare of the people whom we represent, safeguarding the well-being of our respective States and protecting the present and future of this nation, a nation which belongs—as does this room—not to one of us, or to one generation, but to all of us and to all generations.

The significance of that 1976 gathering—and perhaps of our being here tonight—is to remind us that in a Senate of immense and still unfolding significance to the nation, each individual member can play only a brief and limited role. It is to remind us that the Senate's responsibilities go on, even though the faces and, yes, even the rooms in which they gather, fade into history. With the nation, the Senate has come a long way. And still, there is a long way to go.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, March 24, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,542,617,421,989.90 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-two billion, six hundred seventeen million, four hundred twenty-one thousand, nine hundred eighty-nine dollars and ninety cents).

One year ago, March 24, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,370,449,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred seventy billion, four hundred forty-nine million).

Five years ago, March 24, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,222,103,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred twenty-two billion, one hundred three million).

Ten years ago, March 24, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,480,220,000,000 (Two trillion, four hundred eighty billion, two hundred twenty million).

Fifteen years ago, March 24, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,223,450,000,000 (One trillion, two hundred twenty-three billion, four hundred fifty million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,319,167,421,989.90 (Four trillion, three hundred nineteen billion, one hundred sixty-seven million, four hundred twenty-one thousand, nine hundred eighty-nine dollars and ninety cents) during the past 15 years.

#### U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 20TH

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute's report for the week ending March 20, that the U.S. imported 8,724,000 barrels of oil each day, 2,318,000 more barrels than the 6,406,000 imported each day during the same week a year ago.

Americans relied on foreign oil for 57.6 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf War, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the U.S.—now 8,724,000 barrels a day.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ZION GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a tremendous community which exemplifies citizenship, character, and service to humanity, the Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

On January 18, 1998, the members of the Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church held their long and eagerly anticipated "Mortgage Burning Party." Under the guidance of their respected pastor, the Reverend Frank L. Selkirk III, Ph.D., the Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church will draw to a close its financial debts and begin to look forward, with faith, hope and love to a future filled with opportunity.

The history of this wonderful church has been nothing short of a small blessing. From its humble beginning on October 15, 1938, with a congregation of only eight members, Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church continued to grow and flourish with each year and each dedicated pastor until it reached its present location at 2801 Swope Parkway in Kansas City, Missouri. This church and the community which comprises it are examples of dedication, perseverance, and commitment to the future.

With God's blessing, and the faithful support of the Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church community, "The Mortgage Burning Party" will be a celebration of the blessings that will continue to reward the Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

#### TRIBUTE TO HELEN COX

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a tremendous individual who exemplifies citizenship, character, and service to humanity, Helen Cox.

Helen Cox of Willow Springs, Missouri has been a foster parent since 1989. Throughout her tenure as a foster parent, Helen has cared for over 150 foster children. Helen has spent countless hours drying tears, rocking children to sleep, and sitting up night after night with children unable to sleep. The golden rule of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you is exemplified in Helen's home. Through pa-

tience and firmness, Helen has taught these children that household tasks, school work and other responsibilities are a part of learning how to survive and thrive in the world. The comfortable country environment, that includes the friendship and therapy of animals, has nurtured many children.

Helen recently celebrated her seventy-second birthday and was honored at a reception on December 7, 1997, by the Foster Parent Association of West Plains, Missouri. Even at the age of seventy-two, she is serving others and maintaining frequent contact with many of the children who were placed in her home. It is an honor to commend Helen for her commitment to provide a loving home for the many children she has served as a foster parent.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:55 a.m. a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 517(e)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1131), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following participant on the part of the House to the National Summit on Retirement Savings to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. Jack Ulrich of Pennsylvania.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 801(b) of Public Law 100-696, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the United States Capitol Preservation Commission: Mr. WALSH of New York.

The message further announced that the Houses has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 118. An act to provide for the collection of data on traffic stops.

H.R. 2843. An act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to reevaluate the equipment in medical kits carried on, and to make a decision regarding requiring automatic external defibrillators to be carried on, aircraft operated by air carriers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3096. An act to correct a provision relating to termination of benefits for convicted persons.

H.R. 3211. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to enact into law eligibility requirements for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3213. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify enforcement of veterans' employment and reemployment rights with respect to a State as an employer or a private employer, to extend veterans' employment and reemployment rights to members of the uniformed services employed abroad by United States companies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3226. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands and improvements in State of Virginia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3412. An act to amend and make technical corrections in title III of the Small Business Investment Act.

At 6:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 395. *Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Steven Schiff, a Representative from the State of New Mexico.

### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 118. An act to provide for the collection of data on traffic stops; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2843. An act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to reevaluate the equipment in medical kits carried on, and to make a decision regarding requiring automatic external defibrillators to be carried on, aircraft operated by air carriers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3096. An act to correct a provision relating to termination of benefits for convicted persons; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3211. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to enact into law eligibility requirements for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3213. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify enforcement of veterans' employment and reemployment rights with respect to a State as an employer or a private employer, to extend veterans' employment and reemployment rights to members of the uniformed services employed abroad by United States companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3412. An act to amend and make technical corrections in title III of the Small Business Investment Act; to the Committee on Small Business.

### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-361. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 66

Whereas, Our country is in the midst of remarkable change in the amount and the variety of information communicated across the spectrum of radio frequencies. The communications age is having an effect on all Americans. Radio frequencies are a finite resource used to handle news, information, entertainment, education, vital services, and commercial activity. Computers, cell phones, television and radio, and emergency equipment compete for access to the spectrum of radio frequencies; and

Whereas, As the federal government, through the Federal Communications Commission, allocates space on the spectrum, it is critical that local police and fire operations have enough access to handle the communications challenges of saving lives in emergency situations. This has long been a point of concern for those closest to public safety issues. The FCC last allocated channels for public safety in 1987. Since that time, the number of communications devices and capacity needs have exploded. During

crisis situations, for example, heavy use of cellular phones in a disaster area can impede the lifesaving work of emergency personnel; and

Whereas, Authorities need space on the radio frequency spectrum not only for voice communications, but also for transmitting fingerprints, mugshots, medical information, and other data. Without adequate access to communications, the results in a specific incident or community will one day result in a disaster that is entirely preventable if we act wisely today; now, therefore, be it.

*Resolved by the Senate*, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to ensure that public safety agencies are allotted sufficient access to radio frequency space; and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-362. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas, In recognition of the fact that the maintenance of high-quality potable water is essential to safeguard the health and welfare of the nation's citizens, the federal government enacted the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. s.300f et al.); and

Whereas, The State of New Jersey enacted the "Safe Drinking Water Act" in 1977, empowering the Department of Environmental Protection to assume primary enforcement responsibility under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, and to adopt and enforce additional State rules and regulations to purify drinking water prior to its consumption by the public; and

Whereas, It was recently discovered that the drinking water in parts of Ocean County, most notably in Toms River and Dover Township, contain a SAN trimer that is a by-product from the manufacturing of a plastic, styrene acrylonitrile copolymer, from the manufacturing of a plastic, styrene acrylonitrile copolymer, from the chemicals styrene and acrylonitrile; and

Whereas, Although acrylonitrile, through scientific analysis, has been associated with certain brain and central nervous system cancers, and styrene is listed in the federal regulations as a substance that must be tested for in public drinking water supplies, there are no drinking water standards for the various substances created when these two independently hazardous substances are combined; and

Whereas, The abnormally high incidence of cancer, especially in children, in the Toms River area of Ocean County, coupled with the identification of high levels of a potentially carcinogenic substance in that area's drinking water supply, have created an urgent need for additional action; and

Whereas, Further testing is necessary to determine the effects of the SAN trimer by-product on human health and to establish a federal standard, the exceedance of which would result in immediate remediation efforts; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey*:

1. This House memorializes the Congress of the United States and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to establish a safe drinking water standard for the SAN trimer by-product of manufacturing processes using styrene and acrylonitrile.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General

Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, each member of Congress elected from the State of New Jersey, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Region II Administrator of that agency, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

POM-363. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine; to the Committee on Finance.

#### JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Government of the United States of America, the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico resolved in 1993 to implement the provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement, commonly referred to as NAFTA; and

Whereas, an objective of the North American Free Trade Agreement is to eliminate barriers to trade in, and facilitate the cross-border movement of, goods and services between the territories of the parties and to promote conditions of fair competition in the free trade area; and

Whereas, despite the free trade agreement and the worldwide tendency toward more open borders, there remains a barrier gravely affecting trade along the Maine-New Brunswick border; and

Whereas, the barrier concerns the disparity created by the tax-free personal allowance exemptions of the United States and Canada. Currently, Canadians are permitted to bring \$50 in American purchases back to Canada in any 24-hour period. The United States, however, allows a \$200 exemption for Canadian purchases; and

Whereas, steps need to be taken to achieve parity between Maine and the Province of New Brunswick to ensure that Maine businesses are able to compete in Canada; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*: That We, your Memorialists, recommend and urge the Congress of the United States to act upon the current barrier affecting trade along the Maine-New Brunswick border; and be it further

*Resolved*: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, to the United States Trade Representative, Charlene Barshefsky, and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-364. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### RESOLUTION

Whereas, 1998 begins on a rare note of cautious hope for Northern Ireland, as multi-party talks aimed at achieving a lasting peace in the North have recommenced; and

Whereas, the American people have a deep and abiding interest in the ongoing Northern Ireland peace process, to the extent that the current peace talks are chaired by special envoy and former U.S. Senator George Mitchell at the behest of President Clinton; and

Whereas, the Northern Ireland peace process is of particular concern to the citizens of Massachusetts, owing to the Commonwealth's unique bonds with Ireland and all 32